NUMB. XXXII.

The GRUMBLER.

By Squire GIZZARD.

Βρεκεκεκὲξ, κοὰξ, κοὰξ,
Βρεκεκεκὲξ, κοὰξ, κοὰξ,
Λιμναῖα κρηνῶν τέκνα. Ariſtophanes.

From *Tueſday* July 5. to *Friday* July 8. 1715.

THERE is nothing I have more earneſtly wiſhed for, than to have a good Correſpondence in the two learned Univerſities of this Land. The following Letter comes from an *Oxonian*, with whom I ſhould be proud of cultivating an Acquaintance.

To the *London Grumbler*, *Anthony Gizzard* Eſq;

SIR, *Oxford*, July 5. 1715.

'I Have for ſome time reſolved to enter into 'a Correſpondence with you, being entirely 'ſatisfyed with the Deſign and Title of your Pa-'per. As you were educated at *Oxford*, and have 'taken Lodgings in *London*, and thereby are be-'come both a learned Man and a Town Wit, your 'Works will certainly ſtand. By the Experience 'of ſome Years, we find that the Writers, who 'have not paſſed through a regular Education, 'have made but a deſpicable Figure. Some, who 'ſet out with a competent Meaſure of Fire at 'firſt, like hot Racers, have run off their Mettle 'for want of good Meat in their Bellies. We 'Laugh in this Place at their Oſtentation of Lear-'ning, when they tell us nothing, but what we 'knew at School; and we are informed, that 'they meet with no better Succeſs in *London*, 'where they are only reviving Ribaldry and Buf-'fooneries, long ſince exploded. It is owing to 'the ſucceſsful Labours of ſome of your Predeceſ-'ſors, Mr. *Gizzard*, that a Smattering in Learning 'will no longer paſs for depth in Town, nor freſh 'Cant for Politeneſs in the Univerſities.

'Having thus declared in your Favour as you 'are an Author; I need not take Pains to recom-'mend my ſelf to you, as you are a *Grumbler*, 'when I ſhall have acquainted you, with my be-'ing a Member of the *Croaking* Club in this re-'nowned Univerſity.

'The *Croaking* Club is a very ancient Socie-'ty, and, if we may believe *Geoffery* of *Monmouth*, '*William* of *Malmesbury* and the famous *Leland*, 'was inſtituted by two *Cynick* Philoſophers, who 'paſſed over from *Athens* to *Britain*, many Years 'before the two *Athenian* Sages arrived in our Si-'ſter Univerſity of *Cambridge*.

'This I am the more particular in, becauſe the 'great Antiquary *Anthony a Wood* (who was him-'ſelf a *Croaker*) hath incuriouſly paſſed it over in his '*Antiquitates Oxonienſes*. There is great Reaſon 'to believe that this Fraternity hath flouriſhed a-'midſt all the Changes that have happened in Re-'ligion and Government; and I have heard the 'late Mr. *Joſeph Pulleyne*, who lived and died a 'ſtanch Member, relate, that before the Reſtau-'ration it was reckoned the moſt ancient, ſerious 'and ſad Society in *Oxford*.

'It

(Price Two-pence.)

'It conſiſts of ſuch Perſons only as are conſcious of their own Merit, and of the Injuſtice of the World; and therefore aſſemble together at certain Times, to repine at the Succeſs of thoſe who gain Preferment, and to give Reaſons why they did not deſerve it.

'It is a Tradition, that the moſt renowned Gentlemen of this our Society, having heretofore been ſuch as were advanced in Years and paſt all Hopes, had contracted (if I may ſo ſay) a Diduction of the Jaws by a forced Sneer; had waſted their Bodies by inward Diſcontent; and had ſo ruſted their Voices by frequent Murmurings and Grumblings, that they in ſome ſort reſembled Frogs, and thereby deſerved the Name of *Croakers*; which, though firſt beſtowed upon them as a Term of Reproach, is now become their greateſt Glory.

'I cannot help obſerving to you in this Place, that the two Univerſities are the moſt impartial Bodies of Men in our Iſland. The Gentlemen of the Sword and of the long Robe, do not only magnify the Dignity of their reſpective Profeſſions, but uſually rejoice in the Promotion of their Brethren to any Eminent Poſt, and extol the Gallantry or Capacity of the Perſon who is ſo promoted. On the contrary, we are glad to remember the Follies of the School-boy even in the Biſhop or Dignitary, and delight in Tainting the Fame of a Man of extraordinary Vertues, by expoſing the Levities of his Youth or the Meanneſs of his Original. The Society, of which I am an unworthy Member, excels in the Knowledge of this Kind of ſecret Hiſtory. But to give you a compleater Idea of us, I ſhall inform you of ſeveral of the Maxims privately agreed to by the Club.

'That the greateſt Reſpect is to be paid to the Perſon, who hath had the greateſt Diſappointments.

'That in all Diſputes which may ariſe, *cæteris paribus*, the Right of the Queſtion is preſumed to be in the hoarſeſt Voice.

'That the leaneſt Members have the moſt undoubted Title to the Elbow-Chairs.

'That in the Streets and other publick Places the *debita Reverentia* is due to the moſt faded Gowns.

'That any Member that hath been an unſucceſsful Candidate for the Headſhip of a Houſe, can never be in the Wrong.

'That the *Non's* in Convocation are Patriots.

'That the *Terræfilius* is the moſt uſeful Officer in the whole Univerſity.

'That all other Clubs, beſide this One, are dangerous.

'In due time I may poſſibly give you an Account of the Lives and Actions of ſome of our Members deceaſed. I ſhall only obſerve to you at preſent, that although all other unſtatutable Aſſemblies are now reſtrained by publick Authority, yet we are allowed to conſort together, as our Forefathers have done. And I can aſſure you, that within theſe few Months the Club has filled apace,

'Dear Friend *Anthony*, I will not fail, as you *grumble* from *London*, now and then myſelf to *croak* from *Oxford*; and if you treat me in the Manner, I have ſome Reaſon to expect from your Hands, I doubt not but there will be a very good Harmony between us.

I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

Samuel Sallow

ADVERTISEMENT.

To be Sold

*** A large ſtrong black Gelding 15 Hands high, a good Fore-Wheel Chaiſe with Iron Axle-trees, and a crane Neck and Springs; with a blue Cloath Lining, and a Feather Seat, and a Pair of Shafts and Pole, and a ſingle Horſe-Harneſs; to be ſold together or apart. Now ſtanding at the *Black-Horſe* in *Church-Lane* in *Houns-Ditch* near *Algate*.

LONDON: *Printed by* W. WILKINS, *at the* Dolphin *in* Little-Britain; *and Sold by* R. BURLEIGH, *in* Amen-Corner.; J. GRAVES *in St.* James's Street; A. BOULTER *without* Temple-bar; *and* J. HARRISON *at the* Royal Exchange.

Where Advertiſements are taken in.